

COUNTRY East Germany Approved For Release 2003/08/06 : CIA-RDP80-00810A000900780007-0

TOPIC VP Information from Pasewalk

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

13 March 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. From 22 December 1952 through 9 January 1953, there was no change in the strength of VP units stationed at Pasewalk. Mostly VP personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets (artillery or antiaircraft artillery soldiers), yellow-bordered black epaulets (signal soldiers), and black-bordered blue epaulets (engineers) were observed. Many VP soldiers wore violet-bordered green collar patches (administrative personnel) or crimson collar patches, which are, allegedly worn by headquarters personnel. Most of the Soviet instructors wore black service color with tank insignia and a Soviet star on their caps.<sup>1</sup>
2. In late December, Major Hasse (fnu), previously chief of the supply section of the headquarters, was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Heinicke (fnu). Prior to World War II, Hasse was a technical sergeant in the 257th Sig Bn. The Soviet general whose billets are at 8 Kuerassier Strasse was seldom seen during the reported period. After 20 December, he did not enter his billets.
3. On 7 January, 16 jeeps arrived by rail at Pasewalk. They subsequently proceeded to the Kavallerie Kaserne.
4. After about 10 December, service of the piece drill with two AA guns of about 75-mm was observed in the area in front of the Hentschel depot. Driver school with prime movers conducted in the area of the barracks installation. After 3 January, firing was daily practiced from 10 a.m. to noon with 50-mm AT guns in the drill ground. Practice targets representing bunkers and houses had been set up in the drill ground.<sup>2</sup>
5. Source determined that the small block of buildings in the Kavallerie Kaserne does not house a headquarters but a paymaster's office.
6. [redacted] the barracks installation also quartered a detail of about 30 Soviet officers and NCOs and 100 EM, who serve as instructors for the VP units. The Soviets often left for the Torgelow-Eggesin area, from where they returned only late in the evening.<sup>3</sup>

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7. Eleven houses for officers were completed on the road to the drill ground, while three other houses were still under construction. [redacted] at the construction headquarters, that 46 two- or three-story buildings were scheduled to be constructed. The evacuation of the settlement houses at the eastern edge of the barracks installation was stopped.

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9. [redacted] prior to 10 January indicate that the headquarters of the VP army activated in the northeastern area of East Germany is located in Pasewalk. Commanding general of the VP army was Major General Hermann Rentsch, his deputy was Colonel Riedel (fmu). General staff officer in charge of supplies was Lieutenant Colonel Johannes Rochlitzer, a member of the former Sevditz army. Divisions assigned to the army were located in Prenzlau and Eggesin. The division in Prenzlau, which was under the command of Colonel Riedel, used installations No I in Pasewalk, No II in Stallberg, No IV in Prenzlau and No V in Pinnow. The division in Eggesin, which was under the command of Colonel Weiss (fmu), probably used installations No VII in Eggesin, No VIII in Kerpin, No IX in Spechtberg and No X in Altwarp. The superior headquarters of the units quartered at installations Nos III in Prora and No IV in Droegeheide could not be determined.<sup>4</sup>

10. From 13 December through 15 January, no training activities were observed at the Kuerassier Kaserne. The unit stationed at this installation, allegedly, rotated with VP units quartered in temporary facilities in the Eggesin area. The Soviet komendatura was still housed in a building on Prenzlauer Strasse, opposite to the cemetery, while Major General Rentsch was billeted in an annex of this building. The two houses were connected by underground cables and overhead telephone lines. A lumber and coal dump with railroad connection was being established on the northern perimeter of the town. A cold-storage building was under construction for the VP behind this dump. A VP hospital was being erected on the highway to Prenzlau, about 1 km from Pasewalk. One block was said to be partially occupied during the reported period.
11. On 8 January, a train of 60 flatcars loaded with tractors and trailers passed through Pasewalk toward Torgelow. On the morning of 9 January, about 40 sedans were detained in Pasewalk.
12. From 23 November 1952 through 12 January 1953, no training activity was observed at the barracks installation in Pasewalk. On 12 January, source observed VP personnel being trained with range finders and aiming circles. On 15 and 19 January, about 150 men were given infantry training in the barracks yard. After 22 January, training of an undetermined type was also given in the small drill ground south of the barracks installation.

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